

Responsive to the objection to claim 18, Applicant has amended claim 18, keeping in mind the comments offered by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 18 is now in allowable form, the allowance of which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 9-14, 16, 19, 20, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,911,198 (Curen et al.), Applicant has submitted, contemporaneously with this amendment, a statement of common ownership, which by application of §103(c) disqualifies the commonly owned prior art and submits that claims 1, 2, 9-14, 16, 19, 20, 24 and 25 are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 15, 17 and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curen et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,815,077 (Christansen). However, claims 15 and 17 depend from claim 9, claims 21-23 depend from claim 19, and claims 9 and 19 have been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 15, 17 and 21-23 are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curen et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,498 (Westrick et al.). However, claim 18 depends from claim 9, which has been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 18 is now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 9-25 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1 and 7-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,360,697 (Williams), Applicant has amended the specification to indicate that the present application is a continuation of Williams. The amendment of the specification is in concert with the filing receipt dated March 11, 2002,

wherein the present application is noted as a continuation of Williams. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 2, and 9-25 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the objection of the drawings, Applicant has contemporaneously submitted a request for drawing change. Additionally, Applicant has amended several paragraphs in the specification to correct reference number inconsistencies. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the drawings and specification are now in allowable form.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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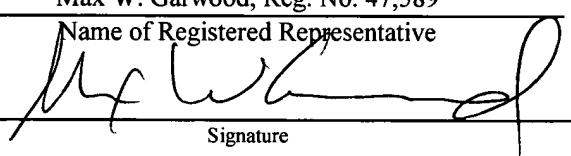
Attorney for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
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Title: PRESSURE PULSE PROBE FOR ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CORRECTION
Application Serial No.: 10/037,197 Group: 3634 Examiner: S. Nguyen



ATTACHMENT A:
MARKED-UP COPY SHOWING AMENDMENTS

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

GROUP 3600

Please insert the following paragraph immediately after the title on page 1 of the specification:

(New) This is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/442,288 entitled "PRESSURE PULSE PROBE FOR ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CORRECTION", filed November 19, 1999 now Patent No. 6,360,697.

Please replace the paragraph that starts at page 4, line 8 with the following paragraph:

(Amended) Referring now to the drawings and in particular to Fig. 1, there is shown an embodiment of an animal control device 10 of the present invention. Animal control device includes collar 12 and pressure pulse generator 14. Pressure pulse generator 14 includes enclosure 16 which houses the mechanism by which the pressure pulse generator 14 produces a pressure pulse wave. Extending radially inward from enclosure 16 is probe 18 having tip 20. Collar 12 is adapted to fit around an animal's neck. Collar 12 includes an adjustable strap [22] 21 with buckle [24] 23 permitting collar 12 to accommodate the varying sizes of necks of different animals. Collar 12 is adjustable to permit tip 20 to be in contact with the skin of an animal's throat when collar 12 is securely fastened around the animal's neck. During operation of animal control device 10, a compression wave is generated within probe 18 and proceeds along tip 20. The compression wave leaves tip 20 as a pressure pulse wave is applied to the skin of the animal.

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Please replace the paragraph that starts at page 6, line 19 with the following paragraph:

(Amended) Tip 20 is free to translate within probe 18. Probe compression spring 90 applies a biasing force against tip 20 to hold tip 20 against ledge 92 of tip bore 94. When gas pressure is not applied to impactor 76, tip [18] 20 is retracted within tip bore 94. Outlet 96 allows gas flow from guide tube 78 to exit the pressure wave generator 70 through outlet cavity 98 located between guide tube 78 and pressure wave generator wall 100.

Please replace the paragraph that starts at page 9, line 4 with the following paragraph:

(Amended) The animal control device may be selected to apply a pressure pulse from a maximum pressure wave pulse to a minimum pressure wave pulse. A maximum pressure wave pulse is produced when current flow is supplied to solenoid 22 at a maximum duration. The maximum duration is the length of time sufficient to allow a volume of gas to be introduced behind impactor 76 such that the pressure of the gas remains constant as impactor 76 completely transverses guide tube 78 and strikes tip 20. As the current flow duration decreases from its maximum, the volume of gas introduced behind the impactor becomes insufficient to maintain a constant pressure as impactor 76 moves along guide tube towards tip [18] 20 and the volume behind the impactor increases. The increase in volume behind impactor 76 results in a proportional decrease in gas pressure as impactor 76 transverses in guide tube 78. The resulting force applied by the expanding gas behind impactor 76 similarly decreases with an associated reduction in impactor 76 velocity and kinetic energy at the instant of impact of impactor 76 with tip 20. A lower amplitude compression wave is propagated through the tip 20 with an associated reduction in amplitude of pressure wave pulse applied to an animal's skin. Successive reductions in current flow duration result in proportional reduction in the correction stimulus level.

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IN THE CLAIMS

18. (Amended) The animal control device of claim 16, wherein said transmitter comprises a buried [wired] wire.